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AUXILIARY INFORMATION GENERATION METHOD,

AUXILIARY INFORMATION GENERATION APPARATUS,

VIDEO DATA GENERATION METHOD, VIDEO DATA PLAYBACK METHOD,

VIDEO DATA PLAYBACK APPARATUS, AND DATA STORAGE MEDIUM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an auxiliary information generation method, an auxiliary information generation apparatus, an image data generation method, and a data storage medium. More particularly, the invention relates to a method and an apparatus for generating auxiliary information which is used as index information when extracting or selecting a part of digital data such as digital video and audio data, and a method for generating partial video data by extracting a desired portion of image data by utilizing the auxiliary information, as well as a method and an apparatus for playing the partial video. Further, the invention relates to a data storage medium which stores a program for making a computer execute the auxiliary information generation method and the video data generation method, and data generated as the result of executing these methods.

2. Description of the Related Art

In recent years, with the progress in digitization of video and audio, standardization of video and audio data compression methods such as MPEG-2 and MPEG-4 has been achieved for the purpose of improving efficiency in recording or transmission and,